

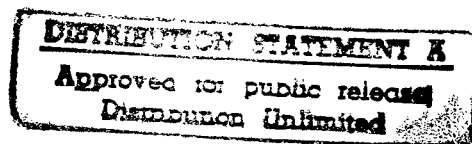
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2 JUNE 1992



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JPRS Report



Science & Technology

***Central Eurasia:
Life Sciences***

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Science & Technology

Central Eurasia: Life Sciences

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Altay Kray Medical Service Curtailment Possible

927C0264A Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 30 Jan 92 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Health Care"]

[Text] Health care in Altay Kray may be reduced in the near future to first aid and emergency care, announced Nikolay Gerasimenko, chairman of the kray's public health committee. Any increase in health care volume would require additional allocations. Given the abrupt increase in the expenses of maintaining hospitals and treating people, the financing provided to health care in the kray will not be able to cover even a third of the expenses. The attitude of the local administration toward developing the material base of public health evokes special alarm. No solutions have been found to the problems of building facilities needed on priority—a kray hospital and an oncological outpatient clinic.

Proposed Transfer of Soviet Health Ministry Component to Russia

927C0264B Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 13 Dec 91 p 2

[Article: "Chronicle"]

[Text] By order of the President of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic.

It is proposed to the RSFSR Ministry of Economics and Finances that it finance, out of the republic budget of the RSFSR until the end of 1991, the maintenance of the Main Administration of Biomedical and Emergency Problems (the Third Main Administration) under the abolished USSR Ministry of Health, and the institutions, organizations and enterprises subordinated to it and located on RSFSR territory.

In this case the force of RSFSR Council of Ministers Decree No. 436 dated 19 August 1991, and the increase, foreseen as of 1 December 1991 by Ukase No 211, 15 November 1991 of the President of the RSFSR, in the existing pay rates and salaries of workers, which will not affect the existing procedure for increasing the salaries (pay rates) of workers of public health institutions, is extended to the indicated Administration and to institutions, organizations and enterprises subordinated to it.

It is proposed to the Government of the RSFSR that it form a commission out of representatives of interested ministries and departments and submit, within two weeks, proposals on the procedure and conditions of operation of the Main Administration of Biomedical and Emergency Problems (the Third Main Administration).

German-Ukrainian Production of Computerized Tomographs

927C0264C Kiev RABOCHAYA GAZETA in Russian
4 Dec 91 p 2

[Article by L. Khazan: "Tomograph? Zer Gut!"]

[Text] The woes of our health care system are known. Before, whenever new breaches were discovered, everyone

leaped upon them as if they were gun ports. It seemed as if all we needed to do was to find the ends of the broken links, and the problem would be solved with the government stick, or perhaps the carrot. But "educational" tactics came to help less and less. Upon inspection, industry supporting public health was found to be not a capricious "imaginary" patient but, to put it bluntly, a being breathing its last gasp.

The Ukrainian Ministry of Health clearly wanted to demonstrate its effectiveness when it called journalists to a press conference on the occasion of establishment of a new Ukrainian-German joint venture: Look, if we really wanted to, there are a few things we can actually do! The celebrities at this press event included, besides the Ministry of Health, the Kiev Scientific Production Association of Relays and Automation, which signed an agreement three years ago with Germany's Siemens AG on cooperative production of computerized tomographs in the Ukrainian capital. The demand for these sophisticated diagnostic tools is growing in direct proportion to the increase in morbidity; unfortunately, we have no shortage of the latter.

Three years ago the Scientific Production Association of Relays and Automation contributed only 10 percent to the cooperative effort, while now it contributes as much as 40. Twenty-four tomographs were manufactured in this time. Regretfully only a fifth of them found homes in the republic. This year Ukrainian medical workers received another three.

A memorandum on expanding cooperation in the production of medical equipment was signed between the Ukrainian government and Siemens AG during Leonid Kravchuk's visit to Munich. Owing to this, 100 sets of units for ultrasonic apparatus were obtained from the German partner. "I am certain that in two or three years," Republic Public Health Minister Yu. P. Spizhenko said at the press conference, "we will solve the problems of medical equipment and instruments."

Tomographs are, of course, a very good thing. I don't wish to offer any pessimistic predictions, but I can't get one nagging question out of my mind: Will the rate of production of medical apparatus overtake the rate of growth of morbidity?

Whatever the case, we'll count how many tomographs we will have, like we count our chickens, in the fall of 1994.

Interview With Antibiotics Institute Director

927C0264D Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 30 Jan 92 p 6

[Interview with Antibiotics Institute director Sergey Navashin by Dmitriy Frolov; place and date not given: "As With Sausage, Medicines Are Only a Memory to Many: R1.35 for Imports Doesn't Compensate for the Crisis in Domestic Pharmaceutical Industry"]

[Text] It is not difficult to find the Antibiotics Institute in Moscow: Simply take the Metro to Nagatinskaya Station and follow your nose. The institute and its neighboring experimental plant give off a healthy odor—though by that

I don't mean a good one. It smells like mold. It was precisely owing to this lowly mold that in 1941 the Englishman Howard Florey obtained purified penicillin—the first antibiotic, which opened, without exaggeration, a new era in medicine, thus earning the Nobel Prize for its creator.

At about the same time Zinaida Yermolyeva created a similar penicillin strain in the USSR. The strategic branch of domestic microbiological industry, which ran “nose to nose” with foreign competitors in the first while, was thus founded.

These events, which were made known to the public by Veniamin Kaverin's novel “The Open Book” or by a serialized television drama of the same name, might naturally have evoked understandable pride in our accomplishments, if these accomplishments had not remained just an item in the science history books. Pharmacy shelves, which differ little in their emptiness from store shelves, force us to suspect that either pharmacological science has made a final break with practice or something is wrong with the science itself.

“Of course something is wrong. It was practically wiped out of existence together with a number of other branches of science,” asserts Academician Sergey Navashin, director of the Antibiotics Institute. “A high-and-mighty attitude evolved by tradition toward applied disciplines. On the other hand immediate results and, moreover, their industrial introduction were demanded of them, as if all of this depends solely upon scientists. I remember one meeting devoted to the problems of antibiotics, convened in its time by the then-president of the Academy of Sciences, Anatoliy Petrovich Aleksandrov. Officials in high places in Academy science continued to ask the same question over and over again: What have you created that they don't have abroad? He told them about our poverty, about the backwardness of industry and its appalling production processes, and about the bureaucratic barriers at every step. He also said that while our institute costs R5 million, creation of one new drug costs \$100 million in the West, and that hard as it may be to imagine, we were able to create an assortment of drugs close to the foreign assortment on our miserable allocations; when they began asking him about ‘new things’ again, Anatoliy Petrovich said: ‘They have as many biological structures unknown to the world as we have new elementary particles.’ Everyone fell silent. Then as was customary, resolutions ‘to develop and improve’ were adopted, and it all ended with that. In order for all of this to acquire material form, one had to have pull with the government like Vishnevskiy, Petrovskiy, and Ovchinnikov, or one had to be an independently wealthy medical worker: The style of the command system had still not been eradicated then. Take as an example my friend Svyatoslav Fedorov, worthy of imitation. He received a loan to build his own center, one exceeding the allocations to the two academies. Only in this way can you create something new.”

[Frolov] You doubtlessly need new output capacities. But environmentalists show no delight in that prospect.

[Navashin] A major tragedy was overlooked while everyone was in a frenzied struggle with the ministry. There were many people among the deputies to whom “bioengineering” was a swear-word. It was typical Bolshevism wrongside out—“down to the foundations, and then....” In Penza for example, where antibiotics of a new generation—cephalosporins—were to be produced on the basis of a license obtained abroad with improbable difficulty, environmentalists managed to block the program for three years. A combine producing raw materials for dozens of drugs in Nairi, Armenia was shut down. As a result the production shortfall was in the billions of rubles—almost a fourth of all medicines produced. One time, when the discussion turned once again to shutting down production, I said that we needed to think in parallel about expanding the sector of burial services. This was not simply black humor: Knowing the volume to which we would curtail production of medicines, and antibiotics all the more so, it was quite easy to predict the amount by which mortality would rise.

[Frolov] The impression is created that our pharmaceutical industry is not behind 10, or 20, or even 30 years, but that it will be behind forever.

[Navashin] What can I say? We are second to the United States in world antibiotic production, you see. Our drugs have been purchased by 50 countries.

[Frolov] When it comes to smelting steel for example and to producing tractors, we have always been the leader. But neither the one nor the other was produced with a surplus, and when it came to quality and assortment, there was nothing to talk about.

[Navashin] Krasnoyarsk has a fabulous plant employing a miraculous collective under the guidance of a remarkable director. As long as it's been around, this plant has produced two drugs, making hundreds of millions from them. And in Kurkan new drugs are being introduced into production, even though they could have decided not to, with nothing to lose but a lot of trouble. As for the new prices, there may be some who might benefit from them, but it wouldn't be the consumer, to whom medicines are as much a memory as sausage is today. Rather than providing raw materials to medical industry at fixed prices, they drew up a list of especially important drugs for which prices must not be raised by more than fourfold. Correspondingly manufacturing such drugs becomes unprofitable, especially if they were initially inexpensive.

It may be that the recently adopted government decree on financing programs to create drugs will help to some extent to raise microbiological and medical industry out of its comatose state. However, national traditions are such that hope is being placed on the West. What I'm referring to here is not humanitarian assistance but an agreement with a company which would supply us, on a cooperative basis, not with the ready-to-use drugs but with semifinished products—medicinal raw materials. The same company would import and install modern equipment for making a commonly available drug. The term of the contract would usually be not less than two or three years, after which the production lines remain in the possession of the domestic

manufacturer. Besides everything else, this variant of cooperation also insures prudent use of the R1.35 billion allocated to drug imports. The manufacturers also hope that the foreign production processes will open up to them the medicinal market of developed countries, which is distinguished by the highest requirements, including on-site inspection of local production operations and strict control of all components of the process. Given the present state of affairs, such a committee couldn't even dream of writing a positive report here.

Special Issue on First Russian National Congress 'Man and Pharmaceuticals'

Interview With RAMN Congress President Chuchalin

927C0412A Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 2

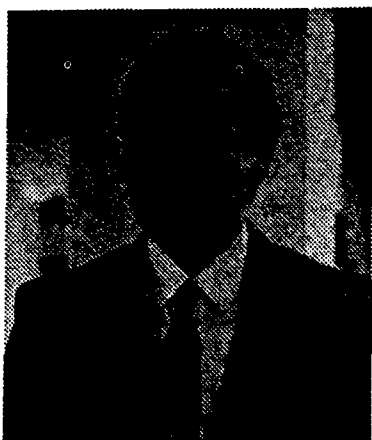
[Unattributed interview with RAMN Academician A. Chuchalin, president of the congress, a prominent public official, therapist and pulmonologist; a physician and president of the Russian Human Health Foundation; date and place not given: "Scientists Begin the Rebirth"]

[Text] [Chuchalin] Rebirth is the main leitmotif of the activities of the Russian Human Health Foundation. That's also the message of the foundation's symbols—a five-petaled flower, the Trinity icon from the ruble note—and of the symbol of the congress as well—a butterfly.

After all, when it comes to making the world even a little cleaner, we must remember that butterflies are the first to perish in a polluted environment.

It is also symbolic that one of the organizers of the congress is the International Universal Recycled Resources Exchange, which is contributing resources for the production of drugs with which to treat sick people.

And it is also important to build a bridge between their research and the efforts of Mashkovskiy's generation, and of young generations.



**RAMN Academician A. Chuchalin, President of
Russian Human Health Foundation**

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] Do you see any real forces capable of solving the problem of drugs and medical technology in Russia?

[Chuchalin] Yes, such forces exist. And the main one is made up of the intellectual potential and creative possibilities of scientists and specialists. Take vitaminology for example: We have strong scientists in this area, but the production base is "lame." This is despite the fact that after the war, during the difficult times, vitamin production plants were on the ascendancy.

The situation is similar with scientists in neonatology and in the development and production of cancer-fighting drugs. And this means that we have a good basis for reducing infant mortality, and for fighting infections of the fetus.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] We would like to know your opinion on investments (loans) as such, and of joint enterprises with foreign firms.

[Chuchalin] The second path is the preferred one. We have experience in cooperating with India's Sipla in the production of, as an example, drugs to treat bronchial asthma patients. Our raw materials and the more-sophisticated Indian production procedures made it possible to do good things.

But in general, the question must be considered from a broader standpoint. The Russian Supreme Soviet needs to take a direct part in solving the drug problem, and we need to establish an interdepartmental committee so that we could pursue a unified policy in this area.

One of the most important measures is to privatize pharmaceutical industry, and primarily production of vitally important drugs, to increase investments into development of pharmaceutical scientific research centers, and so on.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] It is asserted that drugs are present in our warehouses but not in our pharmacies.

[Chuchalin] This is explained by the fact that we have no alternative to the old administrative methods of drug distribution. And if we look at how it is done in the West, we find that distribution is handled by private firms.

Moreover, in order to avoid a wholesale approach and in order to become part of the European market, we need to purchase ready-to-operate pharmaceutical plants, for example in Austria, Hungary, southern Germany and so on. And of course we need to know how to select partners. Consider Hoechst for example, which employed three Nobel Prize recipients. This should certainly be taken into account!

And what about the problem of training and advanced training for personnel of pharmaceutical industry? It is a problem being addressed by presidential candidate Clinton in the United States and by officials of the highest rank in Sweden and Japan. They are undergoing a process of relearning as well.

We are still unable to solve the problem of drug prices, to protect the poor from high prices and so on.

If we want to become part of the European culture, and do things in a civilized way, then we must begin, as in all countries of the world, with investments into pharmaceutical industry and with implementation of a Russian national program. Only then will pharmaceutical industry begin to work for health.

Interview With Russian Deputy Health Minister Vilken

927C0412B Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Unattributed interview with Russian Federation Deputy Minister of Health A. Vilken, chairman of the Medical Industry Committee; place and date not given: "Count Your Money, Place Orders, Produce"]

[Text] Quite recently A. Vilken was the first deputy chairman of the country's largest corporation producing pharmaceuticals. Now he is the deputy health minister and the head of the Medical Industry Committee. Everything associated with pharmaceutical support to Russians is in his hands—production, product distribution, and placement of orders for pharmaceuticals.

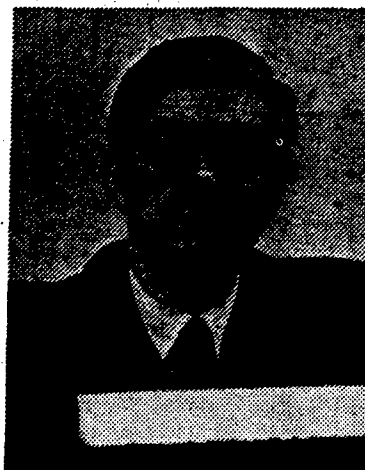
[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] In all the time I have been working for *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA* the sector's administration has been improving before my eyes, and now there is a new spiral of reorganization. What is the essence of today's changes?

[Vilken] The industry is once again under the Ministry of Health, but now in a qualitatively different country. It will serve the interests of peoples of the Russian Federation and provide for their needs.

This reorganization is dictated by the changes that have occurred in society. The Commonwealth of Independent States has come into being in place of the Soviet Union. This is something we have to reckon with in providing pharmaceutical support to Russians.

Of course, you can't create a new industry in just a month, or half a year. For the moment we will continue to utilize the ties that had worked in the past, and concurrently we are forming our own full-fledged pharmaceutical industry and making maximum use of the possibilities of enterprises located within Russia. I would put it this way: The situation in which the pharmaceutical market finds itself today in our country is completely new. Liberalization of prices on all goods, including pharmaceuticals, has made the situation worse. Even the drugs that were produced by the plants in the first quarter of the year have not been bought up by consumers. The wholesale distribution network is only as far as the goods from plant shops have moved. To put it simply, these goods are stuck in warehouses.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] The situation is not all that has changed. Your position has changed as well, and your sphere of activity has widened. The functions of distributing and ordering drugs have been added. How in



Deputy Minister of Health A. Vilken

this connection do you feel about the list of vitally necessary and most important drugs discussed at the congress?

[Vilken] I think it is useful, but too long. In January, at the recommendation of clinical physicians, the Russian Ministry of Health published a list of around 800 drugs and 300 diagnostics. We intend to use it as our guideline in organizing pharmaceutical support to Russians, utilizing the possibilities of both our production operations and hard currency allocated by the government for acquisition of pharmaceuticals abroad.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] Will you finally be able to help the Farmindustriya Corporation purchase modern production lines and equipment?

[Vilken] We are prepared to invest into any enterprise, even if it is not in medical industry but intends to produce pharmaceuticals or medical products. We are working actively with defense plants in Vladimir Oblast and with a number of enterprises in Moscow providing free space for us. It is precisely here that we are conducting cooperative projects with foreign firms, so that modern production procedures could be put into place faster and production of lacking medicines could begin.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] What sort of pharmaceuticals are these?

[Vilken] We are concerned by the inadequacy of aerosol production, and there is a shortage of many pharmaceuticals in ointment form. We want to solve a wide range of problems with the help of loans. I have not spoken about this yet. The government has promised us 10 percent from each project we carry out for the purchase of equipment, raw and other materials, and various substances. With the help of enterprises of defense and other sectors of the national economy we are organizing production of disposable articles—systems and bags for blood, and infusion solutions in polymer packaging. The supply of dialyzers to kidney patients is in a poor state this year. An agreement on product deliveries now exists with Belorussia's Frebor joint venture. But here again the obstacle is prices, and

primarily that proportion of them that must be paid with hard currency. The new production operation obtains some of its raw and other materials from abroad. Therefore, although we have reached agreement with it on deliveries of new products, we are doing everything we can to organize a similar production operation as quickly as possible here in Russia, in the city of Kursk.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] What problems did you have to address immediately in your new position?

[Vilken] There were many surprises, especially after liberalization of prices. We are preparing a draft decree on prices. We are seeking ways that would help at least a little to limit growth of prices at the initiative of producers. We are thinking about what benefits to provide to the population. We will try to review the list of pharmaceuticals with fixed prices.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] What about it, will it become longer?

[Vilken] First of all we would like to make it more specific. We believe that headache remedies, for example, should be purchased in a pharmacy. If a drug is acquired on the basis of a doctor's prescription, there will be a corresponding discount on it. And what if beyond this, the consumer has to buy a drug at a price established by the producer and in the pharmaceutical outlet network? Imported pharmaceuticals will be a minimum of 10 percent more expensive than ones manufactured here. We need to once again review the structure and produce the most important drugs here. This pertains particularly to painkillers administered by injection, production of which traditionally evolved in the Ukraine.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] Will new plants be built in Russia right away?

[Vilken] Yes. A draft decree on erecting a fully operational plant in the city of Kstovo, Nizhegorod Oblast has already been signed. Next week we will begin drawing up a contract with production companies.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] What assortment of articles will the new enterprise provide for Russian public health?

[Vilken] We will receive an additional 150 tons of various drugs, including cardiovascular, anti-influenza, and anti-bacterial agents. This year the government provided us with what I feel to be suitable investments, on the order of R700 million in the old prices. This money will be put to use only on Russian territory.

We are working with the Russian Federation's Ministry of Finances to increase the working capital of the network of wholesaling middlemen. In this way we are trying to clear the logjam at the pharmaceutical warehouses.

In addition there are many other organizational problems. The committee is still undergoing formation. If we compare it with the two ministries that had formerly dealt with pharmaceutical support and medical technology, its numerical strength is ten times smaller than what there was before. Add to this the wage difficulties. Wages are lower

in our sector than in the national economy. While I would be happy to work in behalf of an idea, we do have to consider that market relations prevail.

In short, there is a great deal of freedom. We count our money ourselves, and we order products ourselves; then we produce them ourselves! You can't pass responsibility off on anyone in this situation. We will have to work hard, just like we're supposed to.

Interview With Vasilov, Vice President of Congress

927C0412C Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 2

[Unattributed interview with R. Vasilov, vice president of the "Man and Pharmaceuticals" Russian National Congress; place and date not given: "Let's Put the Crisis Behind Us"]

[Text] Professor, Candidate of Chemical Sciences and Doctor of Biological Sciences R. Vasilov heads the Biokhimiya Scientific-Production Association. He is also the chairman of the board of the DIAPLUS Russian-Swiss joint venture, one of the founders and president of Farmaservis, and vice president of the Russian Human Health Foundation. Many call him a talented scientist and an indefatigable organizer. Being a creator of pharmaceuticals, by necessity he must participate in their production and distribution.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] Raif Gayanovich, what do you see as the end goal of the congress?

[Vasilov] Forming a national pharmaceutical program that would embrace all links of the chain—development of pharmaceuticals, production, distribution, marketing, and consumption. This is precisely why we invited so many different specialists to come and talk.

When it comes to state structures, the president of the congress, Academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences A. Chuchalin presented his conception on this account in the first plenary meeting.

The National Pharmaceutical Committee, which will cooperate on a permanent basis with the Russian Supreme Soviet, must take charge of the work.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] What is your role in this program?

[Vasilov] I see myself as a developer of pharmaceuticals. For a large part of the time that I was the director of an institute all I did was work on its establishment, but I soon found myself confronting a new problem: Whenever we proposed a new, effective drug to medicine, we found that a long time had to pass before we could begin its production. It was then that we were forced to roll up our sleeves and begin establishing our own production operations.

Having formed them, we realized that we had to go further and establish a distribution system. Life compelled us to address all of these problems, although in general I see myself primarily as a researcher.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] Mention was made of work on AIDS and the Chernobyl program in the theses prepared for the congress. Please tell us about them in greater detail.

[Vasilov] I came to the Biotehnologiya Scientific-Production Association from the Academy of Sciences, where I had started fundamental research in immunology at the Bioorganic Chemistry Institute imeni M. M. Shemyakin. I received the corresponding training there, and then I worked for two years in Germany in the leading European center for molecular immunology. From 1985 on, I worked in the Ministry of Medical Industry. It was here that the country's first department of medical diagnostics was established. It began the work of developing resources for laboratory immunodiagnosis. The first Soviet-Swiss joint venture producing such articles came into being in 1988.

As for the Biotehnologiya Scientific-Production Association, it was there that original Russian procedure for producing azidothymidine was proposed by our scientific collectives and a number of others. A drug based on alginates that eliminates radionuclides from the body was developed. This was in the Chernobyl program. Currently we are concluding intensive clinical tests on the drug, and next year we will begin producing it.

One of the directions of the scientific-production association is production of pharmaceuticals with timed-release of the active ingredient. One of them—long-acting theophylline going by the name of teopek—went into industrial production last year. A large group of scientists headed by A. Chuchalin worked on it. It was then that I established a close relationship with Aleksandr Grigoryev and that new plans for renewing pharmaceutical production came into being.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] So how in your opinion can we surmount the pharmaceutical crisis in Russia?

[Vasilov] Much is being said today about modernizing pharmaceutical production. We cannot limit ourselves to a single recipe here. There are many approaches to surmounting the crisis. We need to try them all. Many suggest erecting large pharmaceutical enterprises in the country, and acquiring ready-to-use modular production systems abroad. This path requires sizable investments, but work of a high level is guaranteed from the very beginning.

But as I see it, the fastest and most effective path is to establish pharmaceutical firms on the basis of the sector's leading scientific research centers—ones such as the Scientific Research Chemical-Pharmaceutical Institute imeni S. Ordzhonikidze under the direction of RAMN Academician R. Glushkov and the Scientific Research Institute of Antibiotics headed by Academician S. Navashin. What are the advantages over the other paths? Creation, production and marketing of drugs are concentrated in one place. We

gain time because experimental production operations are already in place. They only need to be expanded and modernized.

The quality of pharmaceuticals will increase significantly in such centers because the scientists are always nearby.

The concept of modern pharmaceutical production is usually associated in our country with a mania for organizations of enormous size. If there are less than a thousand workers, in our country it is no longer seen as a plant, while in the West over 70 percent of pharmaceutical production is by small or mid-sized companies. They are capable of quickly retooling and reacting to market demand, of doing that which is needed at the given moment.

And we can't of course exclude another path where a plant joins forces with science. This is precisely what the Sanitas Plant in the Baltics did, establishing its own drug development department. The Akrikhin Combine, the Fereyn Joint-Stock Company and others could also have departments such as these. I am certain that we need to follow both paths because they will both lead to the same thing—saturation of the domestic market with medicines.

Session Discusses Formation of Russian Pharmaceutical Market

927C0412D Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Unattributed article: "And What Can Be Found in the Pharmaceutical Market?"]

[Text] One of the working conferences of the congress was devoted to this topic. Interest in talking about establishing Russia's pharmaceutical market and about innovations in the distribution of pharmaceuticals was found to be so great that the meeting hall of the Scientific Council of the Russian Academy of Administration was unable to accommodate everyone wishing to attend. The meeting had to be moved from the reserved space to a larger hall, where the participants had to do without practically any technical support.

The co-chairmen—Doctor of Medicine J. Bernstein and Deputy Minister of Health A. Vilken—led the discussion freely and easily, inviting the participants to engage in active discussion.

And it must be said that the conditions in the Russian pharmaceutical market have changed recently, and quite strongly at that. The general press continues to write about the shortage of pharmaceuticals, and to chastise the producers for this. However, the drugs left the plants a long time ago: They are in the wholesale distribution network, waiting to be sold.

This makes it hard not only for consumers but also the producers of pharmaceuticals, who found themselves without assets for production development at the fault of the former.

In the first quarter of the year the drug accounts were more in arrears than ever before. The Russian Ministry of Health was forced to tackle the solvency of both medical

institutions and individual strata of the population head-on. Because accumulating pharmaceuticals in warehouses is not only senseless but also dangerous to the common good.

Different ways of getting out of this dead end were discussed: a specific grant paid to each of us in an amount of, let us say, 800 rubles, stiffer control of the prices of pharmaceuticals obtained by prescription, and many others. The search is ongoing. It continued at the conference. Wholesalers are persistently seeking a solution to the difficult situation. And we would like to believe that they will soon find one.

The experience of colleagues, which American consultants shared with the audience, appeared irreproachable in this sense. F. Edwards, who has occupied high leadership positions in the largest pharmaceutical companies of the United States of America, including Reed Drug Company, People's Drugs and Fentlz [transliteration] Drugstores, who possesses an excellent knowledge of problems in trade, delivery and storage of pharmaceuticals and financing, and who recently came down with the "Russian syndrome" (this is what he jokingly refers to as his love for Russia), related many useful things from his own experience.

There was also a lot of interesting information in the speech by A. Hayes, M.D., an advisor to George Bush on pharmaceutical matters. He related the history of the development of the medical wholesale distribution system in the United States, explained the mechanism of action of the wholesale pharmaceutical trade system, including the distribution bases and centers, and the delivery system, and he demonstrated the mutual relationships between wholesale trade and production, and the system by which introduction of new drugs into therapeutic institutions and pharmacies is controlled. What all of this means reduces to one thing: They were able to create an extremely mobile pharmaceutical distribution system. They do not have to contend with the kind of red tape we have with our orders, which sometimes consumes many months. Medicines are delivered to a client continuously, 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. And an order from a pharmacy is filled right away, or on the following day at the latest. I think that it would be worth our while to learn to work in this way. Of course, we don't have to do everything exactly the same, we can work in our own style. All that is important is the result.

A. Apazov, the director of Farmimeks, a new entity of ours in the organization of pharmaceutical supply to the population, described the peculiarities and unique features of pharmaceutical distribution under market conditions. N. Filippov from the Moscow Medical Academy imeni I. M. Sechenov discussed the problems and prospects of pharmaceutical marketing.

A. Uzdennikov, the first executive director and assistant general director of the Lekarstva Rossii trading house for producers of medical products, raised important issues at the conference. He revealed the causes of the product surplus. He noted that after more than 70 years the

enterprises had become accustomed to working in the old way, and they are not in very much of a hurry to reorient themselves on shopping for clients. Even the 20 percent of products for which permission has now been granted for free sale could be moved reasonably well in the difficult conditions.

One issue that was inevitably raised was that of the different needs and possibilities of different territories, and of additional sources from which inhabitants of different regions could acquire pharmaceuticals.

The discussion turned spontaneously to charitable assistance and to pharmaceuticals not registered with the Russian Pharmacological Committee. The long time it has occasionally taken for pharmaceuticals to pass through the committee and the sometimes unjustified compromises made in this important and responsible effort were discussed.

President B. Yeltsin's ukase prohibiting private individuals from selling certain types of raw and strategic materials abroad, including pharmaceuticals, was actively debated. It was especially troubling to representatives of new, developing organizations—cooperatives, and public and private services and associations. The director of Farmimeks was kept busy providing the necessary explanations and references. The discussion on this subject continued for a long time. There is obviously a need for providing explanations of greater detail in the immediate future. Which is what we intend to do through the newspaper.

Special interest was displayed in the problem of the Mazay Joint-Stock Company, the International Medical Exchange and other services, and in services and goods alternative to the state system.

Even though the meeting place had to be moved during the conference, the ardor of its participants never died down. They were unable to keep to the timetable, such that the meeting continued late into the day.

M. Kazimirovskiy, a disabled person, represented the interests of disabled persons from the Human Health Foundation. He talked about how difficult it was for a disabled person to acquire pharmaceuticals today, chiefly due to lack of money. He appealed to those in attendance to show concern for this category of patients and to ease their lot to the extent possible.

Summarizing the results of the discussion, Deputy Minister of Health A. Vilken gave assurances that the Russian Ministry of Health is persistently seeking a solution to the situation.

And the American co-chairman J. Bernstein, who thanked the participants of the lively discussion for the activity and interest they displayed, compared the course of the discussion with a boiling pot. "Much has been boiled out of it, of course, but some things still remain. In precisely the same way," the speaker said, "something must also be done to support the reforms occurring in Russia. The congress can be said to be effective only if it is able to ensure specific changes for the better."

Looking at the people sitting next to me, I could see how great their desire to act was. And I thought: "Oh, if we could only free their wings and help them a little to fly."

Foreign Investment in Russian Pharmaceutical Industry

927C0412E Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 3

[Unattributed article: "Let's Take the Risk"]

[Text] The second working conference of the congress was devoted to foreign investments into Russia's pharmaceutical industry. The issue is a very important one, because it is absolutely clear today that without help from the outside, Russia will be unable to provide pharmaceuticals to the population: Barely a third of the needed medicines are manufactured in the country, and all the rest are purchased abroad. Our pharmaceutical industry is capable of absorbing financial infusions of any proportions, because the demand for medicines is truly unlimited. Foreign partners understand this quite well, the aggressiveness of foreign firms is high, and the struggle for the Russian market has begun. A number of joint ventures have come into being and are now operating, plans for erecting several ready-to-operate plants are on the verge of implementation, and representatives of the leading pharmaceutical firms are initiating their activities. Nonetheless, things are not going as well as could be wanted. The goal of this conference was to analyze the causes of the failures, and to clarify attitudes.

Generalizing the statements made by both our participants and foreign participants, it would not be difficult to conclude that the instability of the political situation in the country, absence of clarity in the economic reforms, and delays in adopting laws regulating the activities of foreign entrepreneurs are the primary stumbling blocks in the development of business relations. All of this cannot but cause our partners to hesitate. Foreign firms want to receive fully justified guarantees, legal, economic and moral, before they begin their activities. Such guarantees do not as yet exist in their full volume, although the work of creating the foundation for them is proceeding at full steam. Last year a law on investments was adopted, and a special committee was established with the purpose of attracting and utilizing foreign capital, and providing assistance and protection to investors. Legislation already foresees diverse forms of investing capital—establishment of joint ventures and enterprises that are completely foreign-owned, and their acquisition of property on the country's territory, up to and including acquisition of the right to use land. Legal protection against violent seizure of property is guaranteed. Efforts to improve legislation are continuing.

Understanding that these problems are within the competency of the government and that their solution is just a matter of time, the participants of the conference turned to problems of a more practical nature.

Foreign partners have already grown tired of the continual discussions about an abstract, enormous pharmaceutical market in the CIS, and they are beginning to pester their

colleagues—can't they offer anything more specific? Dr. Hayes, an American guest, said quite certainly that investors in the United States want a market that could be measured and analyzed and a demand that could be predicted. They want a market that will develop, a market in which everyone will have equal opportunities, a market open to imports and exports of raw materials, semifinished products, and other materials. Potential investors must have an idea of the possibilities for transporting and storing products, about the manpower and raw material reserves, and the possibilities for construction. They would like to know how the sales system operates—no one wants to invest money into production and then "get burned" as a result of being unable to sell the pharmaceuticals.

The apprehensions are not groundless—Russian industry has suffered on many occasions when the Ministry of Health was unable to clearly formulate the orders and when it purchased drugs abroad that our plants were already producing in a sufficient quantity. Today the situation has become somewhat clearer: There is a list of vitally necessary and most important drugs, and there is a Russian state program to improve pharmaceutical support and develop pharmaceutical industry in the immediate future, but problems still remain nonetheless, particularly regarding development of the infrastructure. In the words of Farmimeks Association general director A. Apazov, even here we will be unable to do without foreign capital. The problem of warehouses is acute: There are not enough of them, and those that are available are completely unmechanized, the pharmacy network is insufficiently developed, and the wholesale link of pharmaceutical trade requires accelerated development.

Still, investments should be channeled primarily into enterprises already in operation. Russian laws give foreign firms the right to participate in production, but as Mr. T. Lakhotti [transliteration] (Switzerland) feels, anyone who wants to invest money into this should be confident that his products would be protected in the market. For example he would enjoy a discount in comparison with firms that simply sell and make no investments. To which A. Vilken, chairman of the recently established Medical Industry Committee of the Russian Federation's Ministry of Health, responded quite definitely: The most favorable terms regarding the purchase of drugs will be offered to those firms that will invest in Russian pharmaceutical industry and in the infrastructure.

A debate arose at the conference on the problems of intellectual property, and the patenting and registration of new developments. I. Khamid [transliteration], president of Sipay, India's largest pharmaceutical firm, related the difficulties that pharmacologists of his country must surmount in the world market, and he offered a warning of the danger that awaits the country if it loses its "pharmaceutical independence." Sipay intends to actively participate in the development of Russian pharmaceutical industry through the establishment of joint ventures, direct investments, and distribution of Russian pharmaceuticals abroad.

An interesting idea was voiced in the speech by G. Choke [transliteration] (Germany): In order for pharmaceutical industry to develop successfully, the interests of the society and the firm must agree. The key factors that unite these interests are the quality of life and reduction of the cost of pharmaceuticals. Bayer is investing enormous assets into scientific research projects, feeling that this activity is precisely what determines the price of a product. Around 350 million marks are spent on the creation of a single original drug. Investments into science are the most expensive, but it is on them that development of both the firm and the society depends.

Investments are needed in science, industry, and the pharmaceutical service, and wherever you look, we have bottlenecks, Mr. Bernstein said. Commercial activity entails high risk today in Russia. Take for example the price situation. Pharmaceuticals worth R14 billion have accumulated in industrial warehouses and pharmaceutical bases. Their prices have jumped by almost six times. There is no medical insurance system in the country, which means that people must pay for them out of their own pockets. But patients, disabled persons, and the elderly have no money, meaning that the storage life of the drugs will expire, and producers will be ruined. "If the problem is not solved," said Mr. Khaytfogel [transliteration] (Switzerland) in his speech, "firms will not invest actively."

The question as to what path development of Russian pharmaceutical industry will take will be finally clarified only within the context of development of the economic and political situation in the country. The minimum guarantees upon which foreign partners are counting were formulated by that same Dr. A. Hayes—a person who knows quite well how a normal industry should function. He said in this respect that a foreign investor coming to the Russian market would want to see permanent leaders who could be trusted and who would help him solve problems. Things must be such that what was said on Monday is not rescinded on Tuesday.

Interview With U.S. Government Consultant

927C0412F Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 4

[Unattributed interview with Dr. A. Hayes, consultant to the Bush administration; place and date not given: "I Am Here To Help Russia"]

[Text] Dr. A. Hayes, an American guest of the congress, headed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for many years, he was a consultant to President Reagan on pharmacological issues, and currently he is a consultant to the Bush administration.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] Mr. Hayes, how dependent is the U.S. pharmaceutical industry on the state?

[Hayes] Firms are absolutely independent in solving their own problems. The goals of the government and firms are the same—to improve the quality of pharmaceuticals, and to do no harm to the health of people. The state actively participates in this process. We have the FDA organization, which controls the evolution of pharmacology. If a

certain company wants to market a pharmaceutical product, it first goes to the FDA, and then the drug is put on the market after extremely rigorous testing. Moreover the FDA monitors the market itself. The standards are very high; they ensure the safety, effectiveness, and purity of pharmaceuticals produced and purchased in the United States.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] Do you remember any examples of serious interference by the FDA into the activity of firms?

[Hayes] No, I can't remember any off-hand. Still, the main function of the FDA is to permit or deny production. If the okay is given, there should be no unpleasantness of any kind, but if companies violate this rule, sanctions are imposed on them. If such violations are repeated, they are shut down. The FDA can ask a firm to remove a particular drug from production if it is certain that it has become obsolete or that it is not good enough. Such was the case for example with oksinoprofin [transliteration], an arthritis-treating drug. The authority of the FDA is high, and pharmacologists of many countries heed its opinion and act on the basis of its decisions.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] The pharmaceutical market in the United States is very large, and it will continue to grow. In your opinion is the society in a position to produce the needed amount of drugs? Is a surfeit of goods something that is observed?

[Hayes] I don't think that the situation will change. Americans use a lot of pharmaceuticals, and they actively monitor their health. The population is growing, and demand will grow as well. New pharmaceuticals will replace old ones if they are cheaper and better.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] What about mutual relations with people residing near chemical and pharmaceutical industry plants? Are there any conflicts from an ecological standpoint?

[Hayes] Yes, problems such as these do arise from time to time, but not often. They are brought on by fear: People become anxious when erection of a biochemical enterprise begins next door—they are afraid of microbes. Things are simpler with chemistry. This fear comes from ignorance. This is why a maximum effort is made to explain to people what sort of work will be going on here, and what sort of safeguards there will be. Production operations are subjected to continual, rigorous inspection, and the population is kept informed of the results.

[*MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*] This is not your first time in Russia. What is the goal of your present visit?

[Hayes] I have been in your country twice. I visited hospitals in Uzbekistan, and I've been in St. Petersburg. Now at the congress I've become acquainted with scientists and with members of the government. My goal is to discuss the problems of Russia's pharmaceutical industry. In my time I helped other countries to establish control over pharmaceuticals, I have developed programs to regulate the entry of pharmaceuticals into the market, and I think I will be able to help you as well. For example the

FDA gave Russia a list of pharmaceuticals that have not passed our tests, and the government may perhaps accept this information.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] How well do you understand the pharmaceutical situation in our country?

[Hayes] I am a fast learner. I feel that your problems are very similar to the problems of Poland, where I visited last year. Today the priority task, the main one for your government, is to reveal what pharmaceuticals are the most important to the Russian market, and how it can be confirmed faster that they are indeed so; then you need to develop the priority directions. What should preference be given to—to purchases, to construction, or to licenses? I feel that there should be a conglomerate of directions, because some pharmaceuticals are easier and cheaper to produce in Russia, while it would be best to purchase licenses in relation to some others, and some should simply be purchased abroad. What is most important is to have a strategy for the development of the priority directions and to do everything deliberately, successively, and well.

Prospects of Russian Pharmaceutical Industry Discussed

927C0412G Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 4

[Unattributed article: "The Prospects Are Still There"]

[Text] R. Glushkov (director of the Scientific Research Chemical and Pharmaceutical Institute, academician of the Russian Academy of Sciences): First of all I feel it necessary to give a high evaluation to the work that has been done to establish the "List of Vitally Necessary and Most Important Pharmaceuticals." Its results will have a favorable effect on providing the population and therapeutic institutions with medicinal drugs. As an example I can note that when it comes to just antibacterial and sulfanilamide drugs, we have more than 20 of them, and only 10 percent of the needed volume of each of them is being produced. It would be better to have six drugs, but in sufficient quantities. And we have an exceptionally high need for capital investments into pharmaceutical industry.

I. Gushchin (professor, laboratory director at the Institute of Immunology of the Russian Federation Ministry of Health): The pharmaceutical industry is in the same crisis as all other sectors. But it is one of the most important in the state, and it demands special attention. Incidentally, the overall state of the society's public health and culture is closely associated with pharmaceutical problems.

As a result of the work done at the congress, a new structure should appear in the state, one responsible for providing drugs to the population. There should never be any interruptions in supply or shortages of drugs.

V. Kulakov (director of the Russian Scientific Research Center of Perinatology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences): The problem lies with more than just the collapse of pharmaceutical industry and the shortage of pharmaceuticals. We need to take specific steps to improve

the population's health. After all, the society's spiritual state reflects itself in health indicators. The overall decline in cultural level and the omissions in education that have resulted in improper sexual contacts have led to a situation where millions of women and men of young age are becoming infertile. We need comprehensive programs to solve the problems. Our research is being financed by the government today, but this financing should be increased.

P. Sergeyev (academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences, department director at the RGMU [not further identified]): From a tactical standpoint we can and must count on support from foreign firms. But in the strategic aspect we need to establish and develop our own modern pharmaceutical industry. Otherwise we will be unable to solve our problems. We must ultimately count on our own strength.

The situation with pharmaceutical supply to the population must be changed, although it is extremely difficult to make any predictions in our unstable times. Too much depends on the political processes going on in society.

S. Navashin (director of the Scientific Research Institute of Antibiotics, academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences): Thoughtless administrative manipulations of medical industry have caused its collapse. But even with the miserly assets allocated to medicine, remarkable collectives of sciences were created, Russian industry was established, and the latest pharmaceuticals were developed and introduced. Russia is second in the world after the United States in antibiotic production. Therefore we need to establish equal cooperation. This is already happening here, at the congress. My hope is that operations manufacturing modern equipment for the production of pharmaceuticals will be created in the country by joint effort. Small operations for the moment, but this is only the beginning. The situation will doubtlessly change, and I look at the future optimistically.

V. Nasonova (director of the Institute of Rheumatology, academician of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences): I hope that the main effect of the results of the congress will be to increase the level of knowledge of specialists in the area of clinical pharmacology, pharmacotherapy, and pharmacokinetics. This will also make therapy more sensible. The doctor must know what happens with a drug in the body.

I don't think that we will be able to reestablish pharmaceutical industry right away. But in the future, if we are able to purchase at least a few production lines, the process of its reestablishment will begin. A country such as this must have its own medical industry, and the foundation for this is being laid today.

Vatican Envoy Reports Plans To Open Medical Institutions

927C0412H Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 4

[Unattributed interview with Vatican envoy Cardinal Angelini; date and place not given: "Medicine Knows No Boundaries..."]

[Excerpt] Cardinal Angelini is a Vatican envoy. Following the Pope and the foreign affairs minister, he is the third person in the state—the minister of health. He is responsible for all issues associated with charity and with humanitarian aid. The health of people—not only of Vatican clergy but also of the entire world—is an object of constant and persistent concern of the Catholic Church.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] The Vatican is very small—around a thousand persons. But the range of your interests as the minister of health is significantly broader. Please describe in greater detail the work you do.

[Angelini] There are 20,000 hospitals in many countries under Vatican jurisdiction, and there will be 30,000 of them before the century is out. This is a large organization requiring constant concern and attention. We are striving to see that they satisfy the most recent requirements, and most importantly, that they are real shrines of health. When I spoke at the congress I said that medicine knows no boundaries or differences in language, race, and religion. All assets spent to create pharmaceuticals mean nothing in comparison with the value of saved lives and preserved health. It is my job to coordinate the activities of the Catholic Church in public health and to visit various countries. Our assistance may be quite varied, but it is provided only under the conditions of normal political relations.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] Your Reverence, do your plans include opening medical institutions and hospitals in Russia and other republics of the former USSR?

[Angelini] Yes, without question. In the past, prior to 1917, many hospitals opened with money from the Catholic Church had operated in your country. They were abolished, and now the time has possibly come to restore them. The first steps were taken during my visit last year to Moscow. We agreed then with former Minister V. Kalinin to open our hospital for treating children in Moscow. Our hope is that the present minister, A. Vorobyev, will help to fulfill the promises of his predecessor. Though unfortunately the matter is progressing slowly for the moment: The opposition of some officials of the Russian Orthodox Church is not the last reason why. They believe for some reason that our activity infringes upon their influence and that we are trying to build some sort of religious bridge between the Vatican and Russia.

[MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA] What besides organizing hospitals is the Vatican doing in public health?

[Angelini] Every year we conduct international conferences in the Vatican on the most important medical problems—AIDS, drug addiction, and alcoholism. In November of this year a conference on the subject "Medicine in the Service of Mankind" will be held in the Vatican. We invited Russian scientists to participate in it as well. The Vatican covers all of the expenses incurred by participants of our conferences. [passage omitted]

Remarks of Russian Health Minister Vorobyev

927C0412I Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "...and the Last Day"]

[Text] The last day of the work of the congress was just as full as the first, second and third. Russian Federation Minister of Health A. Vorobyev arrived in the morning.

Apologizing to the audience for being unable to attend the congress every day, he emphasized the importance of the issue under discussion:

"We are troubled by the problems associated with the dual action of drugs. We are beginning to realize these hazards of drug use more and more often, but unfortunately we don't think about them when we initiate treatment.

"Another fundamental issue was the establishment of Russian pharmaceutical industry. The list of the most important drugs could of course be lengthened as much as one wants. But we must cut our coat according to the cloth. If a country lives off the sale of oil, and if it treats patients and purchases electrocardiographs and other equipment only at the expense of its own subsoil, then such a country will be forced to limit its list to those drugs without which death will be certain. We must understand this, and we must know that we need to throw all of our weight into purchasing production lines primarily, so as to finally achieve independence.

"I'm not worried about a brain drain. The smartest are not going to drain away—they will flock to us. We have enough smart people. But we need to put Russian medical industry on its feet in order to provide the people with pharmaceuticals."

Then followed summaries given by the leaders of symposiums conducted in all of these days. Their objective was to finalize the list of vitally necessary and most important pharmaceuticals. It was updated, corrected, and supplemented with regard for decisions made at the symposiums.

Why was the work done so carefully? Because our public health indicators are not very high. A unique sort of priorities was established. When the death of a child or an adult becomes a concern, drugs must be available at all costs. Next follow the chronic and severely ill, and the disabled. Hence the name, vitally necessary and most important....

As the distinguished president M. Mashkovskiy later admitted, the idea of conducting the First Russian National Congress "Man and Pharmaceuticals" came into being during meetings of the Interdepartmental Scientific Expert Council as a way of publicly supporting the idea.

And it seems to me that not only were the organizers successful in their undertaking, but they also achieved more than they ever expected.

Because all persons who had an interest in the subject participated. And what is especially important, young people actively learned from the experience. Students from medical VUZes took part in all measures—lectures by

professors, clinical critiques, working conferences, round-table discussions and business negotiations. One of the students would report at the conclusion of the congress that it was an excellent school. And those who treasure their future profession, and who do not intend to change it for another, extracted enormous benefit from the lesson offered to them. Because the lectures were top-class, the critiques were at the highest level, and the discussions were objective and specific.

At the end of the proceedings D. Bernstein, M.D. presented prizes to the most active participants.

The rating given to the congress was high. This was confirmed by data of the Institute of Comprehensive Social Research, which conducted a study of it during all of its days.

When asked their assessment of the list of vitally important pharmaceuticals, 63 percent of the respondents who took a position declared that adoption of the list proposed by the congress would promote improvement of pharmaceutical assistance. Identified as acute problems were shortages (60 percent), the dependence on imports (39 percent), high prices (33 percent) and low quality (25 percent).

Twenty-six percent assessed the present policy in public health positively. Seventy-four percent are opposed to this policy. Things are hardest in Russia for the elderly, children, chronic patients and rural residents.

An appeal to Russian physicians was adopted at the congress.

Never in my life have I witnessed such diversity of opinion in a single conference. But never before has the congress produced so many useful things. This was stated by literally all participants. I would simply like to add my vote to this assessment as well.

No one was left without attention—neither the experience-worn leader in pharmacology, nor the young scientist just starting out.

This unbroken bond between generations was expressed gently and subtly in the concluding speech of the distinguished president at the closing of the congress. Then followed the Anthem of the Russian Federation. And then the congress closed, to open once again a year from now.

Congress Participants' Appeal to Doctors

927C0412J Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Appeal of Participants of the First Russian National Congress 'Man and Pharmaceuticals' to Doctors"]

[Text] Participants of the First Russian National Congress "Man and Pharmaceuticals"—representatives of different specialties—doctors, pharmacists, chemical process engineers, state and social workers, and all persons involved in the problem of providing pharmaceuticals and using them in practice—address this appeal to their colleagues.

We are all aware of the difficulties in supplying patients and therapeutic institutions with drugs, which arose in recent times in connection with the economic and political transformations of our state. They are being taken hard by the society, and primarily representatives of the intelligentsia, who understand the entire paradox of the situation especially keenly: The country possesses a high potential of scientists, the richest natural resources, and precision chemical production processes, but there are no drugs.

This situation can be resolved by adoption of the conception of vitally important drugs by society and by legislative and executive powers. The reference is to a basic list of such necessary pharmaceuticals, determined by an independent extradepartmental expert commission. This list should include several hundred drugs satisfying modern clinical, pharmacological, production and economic requirements. The list of vitally important drugs must be standardized, and at the same time it should reflect specific regional features. We therefore ask all specialists to cooperate actively in the effort to establish the national "Man and Pharmaceuticals" program, which would include central and regional subprograms.

We appeal to doctors: You must become the main champions of the idea of vitally important pharmaceuticals. With this purpose the congress adopted a decision establishing the corresponding educational programs, which will bring to you, by way of the mass media, the Russian Human Health Foundation, VUZes and therapeutic institutions, the essence of the conception of vitally necessary medicines.

A report to the government of the Russian Federation will be prepared together with an analysis of the situation and specific proposals on the basis of the results of the congress. The participants of the congress hope that upon adopting the conception of vitally important pharmaceuticals, state administrative entities will be able to sensibly organize their production and distribution, and pursue a correct investment policy. This hope is inspired by the salutatory address sent to participants of our congress by President of the Russian Federation Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin.

It is high time to create an alternative pharmaceutical distribution system apart from the state, and to organize a network of private pharmacies. This system will not compete with the state. Instead, it will be a more-flexible and more responsive system supplementing the state sector. We believe that a sensible combination of budget and nonbudget approaches to the matter of pharmaceutical support can ultimately ensure that every family in our country will have the necessary drugs.

We appeal to you, dear colleagues: We must all believe in our strength. The spirit of our nation has always been strong. And it possesses considerable strength today. Nor has the intellectual potential of Russians been exhausted. Let us join together in the effort to create, rather than destroy. Our congress showed that all we need to do is learn once again how to listen to one another and understand each other.

Adopted 16 April 1992.
Moscow

Danish Firm To Open Plant in Moscow

927C0412K Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "For Life's Sake"]

[Text] No problems concerned with debt repayment are an obstacle to Denmark's Novo Nordisk. Its insulin is saving the lives of a million Soviet people.

Construction of a Novo Nordisk plant will begin in the immediate future in Moscow. The purest and most inexpensive insulin will become more accessible to diabetic patients.

Hoechst Firm Plans Joint Construction of Plant

927C0412L Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Infected With Optimism"]

[Text] "You won't see any miracles in our displays at this exhibition. Nor do we expect any miracles," said Boyan Yuvants, the leader of the Hoechst interest in Russia. "But we do attach great significance to every pharmaceutical exhibition. It is here that business contacts are strengthened, and doctors are made aware of new information on known drugs.

"Baralgin, Beta-Pressin, Corvaton, Festal, Surgam, Trental and others. Anyone who thinks he knows everything about these popular drugs produced by Hoechst is mistaken. Research conducted by German specialists persuades us of this."

MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA: Mr. Yuvants, was the last year difficult for you?

Yuvants: Preparations for construction of a joint plant in Moscow are now nearing their conclusion. Over 5 billion tablets of the widest assortment—from antibiotics to psychiatric drugs—will come off of its conveyor annually.

This is not just a large capital investment by the firm and by Russia, but also a great leap forward in solving the pharmaceutical problem here in your country. I think that the plant will begin working to our mutual advantage in two years.

MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA: Are you not frightened by the unstable economic and political situation in Russia?

Yuvants: Your country is of course in a difficult situation right now. But it need not be exaggerated. Drugs are expensive. But they are available. There are people who are doing everything they can to make them cheaper, to make more of them available. And there are real ways to solve the crisis. In any case no one at Hoechst is panicking. We have our own difficulties as well, after all—competitors. But we have made the quality of our drugs something out of their reach, and we are looking at the future confidently.

Interview With Farmaservis Representative

927C0412M Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 5

[Unattributed article: "How Farmaservis Began"]

[Text] Farmaservis is one of the first wholesale pharmaceutical trade companies in Russia that is not state-run. The idea of its establishment matured almost simultaneously in the minds of two people: Dr. James Bernstein and Raifa Vasilova, vice president of the Russian Human Health Foundation. Farmaservis chairman of the board J. Bernstein speaks:

"Our company supplies the widest range of pharmaceutical goods as well as medical equipment and materials, preventive drugs, hygienic resources and cosmetics to enterprises, medical institutions, and the local wholesale trade network."

Bayer AG Products Registered in CIS

927C0412N Moscow *MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA*
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 8

[Advertisement]

[Text]

Drugs Produced by Germany's Bayer AG Registered in the CIS

Drug	Permit Date	Permit Number	Quantity Per Package
Cardiovascular Drugs			
Adalat (Nifedipine), capsules, 10 mg	15 Nov 77	00510	30/50/100
Adalat (Nifedipine), parenteral, intracoronary, 5 mg/50 ml	29 Mar 90	01805	1
Baypress (Nitrendipine), 10, 20 mg	10 Oct 89	01689	20/50/100
Colfarit (microencapsulated acetylsalicylic acid)	25 Aug 88	01475	50/100
Nimotop (Nimodipine), infusion solution, tablets	25 Jun 90	01877	20/50/100, infusion: 50 ml/10 mg
Syscor (Nisoldipine), tablets, 5, 10 mg	22 Jul 91	002194	20/50/100

Drugs Produced by Germany's Bayer AG Registered in the CIS (Continued)

Drug	Permit Date	Permit Number	Quantity Per Package
Drugs Influencing Metabolism			
Glucobay (Acarbose), tablets, 50, 100 mg	Anticipated in the third quarter of 1992		
Trasylol (Atropinin), 200,000 KIYe [as published]/10 ml, 500,000 KIYe/350 ml	20 Aug 90	01909	5 ampules
Infection-Fighting Drugs			
Baypen (Mezlocillin), solution for injection, 5 gm/10 gm	25 Jan 88	01398	5
Biltricide (Praziquantel), 600 mg tablets	5 Nov 84	01113	6
Canesten (Clotrimazole), ointment and vaginal tablets	24 Dec 76	00425	20 gm/50 gm
Ciprobay (Ciprofloxacin), 250, 500 mg, tablets, infusion solution	2 Sep 89	01674	10/20
Mycospor (Bifonazole), cream and solution	25 Aug 88	01463	15 gm/35 gm, 15 ml/35 ml
Securopen (Azlocillin), solution for injection, 5 gm/10 gm	25 Jan 88	01399	5
Aspisol (injection formula of acetylsalicylic acid, solution for injection), 1 gm	25 Jun 90	01876	5/25
Omeril (Mebhydroline), dragee and suspension	29 Mar 90	01806	20
Aspirin, 100, 500 mg tablets	10 Dec 90	02025	20/100
Aspirin with vitamin C, 400 mg/240 mg water-soluble tablets	10 Dec 90	02026	10/20/40
Rheumon (Etofenamate), gel, 40 gm, 100 gm	10 Dec 84	01120	

Transnational Hoechst Company To Build Pharmaceutical Plants

927C04120 Moscow MEDITSINSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 29 Apr 92 p 6

[Advertisement]

[Text] The Hoechst transnational concern is among the leaders in production of chemical and pharmaceutical products. The concern is second in the world in pharmaceutical production.

Pharmaceutical production is concentrated chiefly in Germany: Hoechst AG, Behringwerke, Cassella, Albert-Roussel; in France: Roussel-UCLAF.

In addition, daughter companies in England, Greece, Italy, Austria, Spain, America, Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, Canada and Japan are involved in production and marketing. The concern possesses a sum total of more than 100 enterprises producing pharmaceutical products.

The largest markets for pharmaceutical products are France, the United States, Japan, Italy and Great Britain.

The following drugs are enjoying the most successful growth in world sales: Buserelin (Suprefact) for the treatment of prostate and thoracic cancer; the antibiotic Claforan, the anti-arrhythmia drug Ritmodan, the peripheral vasodilatory drug Trental, the nonsteroid anti-inflammatory anti-rheumatic analgesic Surgam, and the antibiotic Tarivid.

The drugs Daonil (Glibenclamide) and Trental enjoy the highest sales volumes in the United States. Hoechst is first in the world in scientific research—over 1 billion German marks. Around 80 medicinal drugs are presently in the stage of development and clinical study.

Quite recently two new fourth-generation antibiotics of the cephalosporin series entered the pharmaceutical market: Cefodizime—the first antibiotic possessing immunostimulatory action; Cefpyrome—exceeding in its spectrum of action even the entire series of the latest quinoline drugs.

Human insulins of the highest quality recently entered the world market.

Negotiations on construction of several pharmaceutical plants in different regions are presently in their concluding stage in our country.

Murmansk Hospital Virtually Out of Medicines

92WE0216A Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT
in Finnish 23 Dec 91 p 5

[Article by Marja Salmela: "Hospital Patients Languishing Without Medicines in Murmansk; Hygiene Has Broken Down, Shortage of Food Is Making Hospital Waiting Lines Longer"]

[Text] Murmansk—There are no more than a few dozen preparations left in the medicine cabinet in the Murmansk railroad workers hospital, and they are enough for only a month. The doctors are saving the few pills they have and are providing medication for only those patients who are in critical condition.

Patients suffering great pain lie there without anything to ease it, eight persons to a room and in the corridors. They ran out of painkillers many months ago. Hygiene has broken down at the hospital. Because the hospital laundry is not in operation, the bedding is changed at two-week intervals.

"All Kinds of Aid Are Really Needed"

"We lack everything; all kinds of aid from Finland are really needed," assistant chief physician Nadezhda Stebletsova sighed. "There are no cotton, no bandages, no disposable gloves, no catheters, no intravenous infusion sets, no solutions, no stomach ulcer and heart medications...."

With slightly more than 100 beds, the hospital does not come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Medicine, which is why it does not get medicines from state stores. The railroad company no longer has any hard currency with which it could buy supplies from abroad for its own hospitals.

There are still some medicines left in the company dispensary in St. Petersburg. "When we report the data on a patient by telex to them there, we may get something by mail. But the mail makes the 1,200-km trip increasingly more slowly, and shipments are not reaching their destinations more frequently than before...."

At the same time that the shortage of medicines is getting worse, more railroad workers and their families are flooding the hospital to be treated. The longstanding food shortage is adversely affecting the general health of old people, in particular, and aggravating illnesses. About 20 additional patients are at present lying on beds in the hospital's drafty corridors.

Five hundred persons a day visit the polyclinic. "Of course, we try to examine them, but it's very hard to make diagnoses because we lack ultrasound equipment and an electrocardiograph. The X-ray equipment is also about 20 years old," Stebletsova described the situation.

She said that it is often pointless to prescribe medication for those who come to the clinic. Many prescription drugs are no longer available in the pharmacies. They can be found on the black market, but the prices may be many tens if not hundreds of times the normal prices. "You used to be able to get a package of painkillers for 12 kopeks; now it costs 12 rubles. Women have to cough up 100 rubles for hormone preparations."

Only One Respirator in Intensive Care Unit

The situation has not yet gotten to be as catastrophic in Children's Hospital No. 2 as it is in many other hospitals in this city the size of Helsinki. "At least up to now, child care institutions have been given preference over others," chief physician Oleg Sinopalnikov said proudly.

When he was showing a Rovaniemi member of the Friendship Aid for Murmansk Committee the 320-bed hospital, shortages were evident everywhere. There were no instruments for examining the lungs, heart, and internal organs. There were only one respirator and two incubators in the sole intensive care unit. Instruments and other devices were lacking in the operating rooms. In the urology department, the chief physician explained to us that the equipment had broken down several months ago. "It couldn't be repaired for lack of parts," the chief physician explained.

As for laboratory operations, they are hampered by a shortage of chemicals. Many tests simply cannot be performed. Sinopalnikov was delighted when the visitors from Rovaniemi brought the materials requested by the hospital as a gift from its sister city.

The hospital is also in sore need of antibiotics and asthma drugs because children on Kola suffer from diseases of the respiratory passages and lungs, in particular.

Needles for Donated Syringes Missing

The children's hospital has already received a little aid from abroad, but the recipients of the donations have hardly benefited from the shipments. "Can one of you read Norwegian so that you can tell us what the packages contain and in how large a dose the pills should be administered?" the chief physician asked, dredging up bottles of pills sent six months before by a Norwegian civic organization.

Sinopalnikov ventured to relate how one aid organization had sent the hospital disposable syringes, but the needles were missing. In another shipment, there were needles, but they were the wrong size. "They're all in storage now, unused, even though we have a crying need for syringes."

The chief physician hoped that brief descriptions of the contents in Russian would be attached to aid packages and that instruments and equipment would be checked to see that all parts function properly.

He would be glad to receive anything, from beds for children to treatment materials. "Early next year, a new wing is to be built, but I don't yet know how we're going to get equipment and instruments for it."

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